

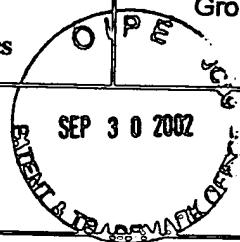
## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)

Applicant(s): Ralph Stank wski

Docket No.

MCA<sup>470</sup>Serial No.  
09/660,795Filing Dat  
09/13/2000Examiner  
R bert J. PopovicsGroup Art Unit  
1724

Inv ntion: PROCESS AND FILTER FOR FILTERING A SLURRY



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Attorney Docket No.: MCA-470

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1724

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10-8-02

APPLICANT: Ralph Stankowski

SERIAL NO.: 09/660,795

FILED: 09/13/2000

EXAMINER: Robert J. Popovics

GROUP ART UNIT: 1724

TITLE: PROCESS AND FILTER FOR FILTERING A SLURRY

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*Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231*

*Sir:*

RESPONSE

Responsive to the Office Action of September 11, 2002, please enter the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 over Price. The pending claims require that the cartridge is free of an open void volume which causes separation of particles from a slurry being filtered. Since the inlet to the first filter segment, 20 (Fig. 1) has the same area and configuration of the first-contacted surface of the first filter segment, no air is entrapped between the slurry and the first contacted surface of the first filter segment. This configuration contrasts with the inlets in the filtration cartridge of the cited Price '628 reference. The inlets of Price are smaller than and have a different configuration than the top surface of the filter. When utilizing such a configuration, the particles of a slurry to be filtered would separate from the slurry. If, on the other hand, Price's top surface of the filter were in contact with the outlet of the inlet, no undesirable void volume would be formed. Accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.